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~~TOP SECRET~~

VW 20/11/01
विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(एन० जी० ओ० अनुभाग)
(N. G. O. SECTION)

फाइल नं०
File No. KW of F.No. 25/13/NHO/52

(Photocopies)

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ARUN KUMAR CHATTERJEE
Joint Secretary (M. E. A.)
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF INDIA

(1)

QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR THE MEETING OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA TO BE HELD ON THE 5TH
MARCH 1952.

Admitted as No. 334 in the Final List.

QUESTION

* Shri Kamath:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity with the Government of Bombay, recently returned from Tokyo and submitted to Government a report on the death or present whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) if not, whether the House can have a resume of the contents thereof ?

ANSWER (ORAL)

Hon'ble Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:

(a), (b) and (c)

On the 15th of September 1951, Mr. S.A. Ayer called on the Prime Minister and told him that he had paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May. The purpose of his visit had been to re-verify the story of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on August the 18th, 1945. He also showed the Prime Minister some papers, some photographs and some documents signed by the Japanese people. At the Prime Minister's request, Mr. Ayer sent him a detailed report of his enquiries on the 26th of September. A resume of the report is placed on the Table of the House.

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE.

~~This showed
the wine to be
in perfect
order.~~

Draft Letter
Memorandum Office Memorandum,
Telegram TELETYPE.

File No.

1. Date of despatch

2. List of enclosures

Subject: Starred Question No.369
about the death of Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose, tabled by Shri B.K.Das
--- to be answered on 5 November '52
in the House of the People, if
admitted.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above mentioned Starred Question and to say that the attention of the Government of India ~~does not seem to~~^{has} been drawn to the non-official resolution ~~which was~~^{which ~~had~~ was} passed by the West Bengal State Assembly urging an enquiry ^{into} on the reported death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

2. The Prime Minister answered a Standard Question (No. 334) in the House of the People on 5 March 1952 on the death of Haji Bapa when he placed on the table of the House a resume of Shri J.A. Aiyer's report on the circumstances of the ~~reported~~ death.

3. Another question on Netaji Bose's death was tabled in July 1952; this was, however, disallowed by the speaker.

4. In view of the fairly detailed reply given by the Prime Minister in March 1952, the Parliament Secretariat is requested to ~~bring the facts of the case to the notice of the Speaker~~. The Government have no further material on the subject.

Consider the desirability
of disallowing the question.

~~Under Secretary (FEA)~~

(3)

RE SOLUTION OF THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Resolved that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government to take all necessary steps for ascertaining the real facts about the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - carried unanimously.

(W)

(A)

RE SOLUTION OF THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Resolved that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government to take all necessary steps for ascertaining the real facts about the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - carried unanimously.

No. 2-Q/52

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
NEW DELHI-1, the 29th Sept' 52

List of questions for the House of the People
Disallowed and Withdrawn.

Diary No.	Date on which proposed to be asked.	Brief subject
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1	2	3
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Starred Questions.

ed from Parliament ssistant at 5.5 p.m. today <u>30.10.52</u>	X	X	x
	369	5-11-52	Enquiry about death of Subhas Chandra Bose.

X	X	X
---	---	---

N.G.O. Br.

A draft reply to the above
question has already been
put up to P.P.S. by
D.S.(F.E.A.). We may now withdraw
our file.

20.10.52

D.S.(F.E.A.)

Seen by

hour, as the aerodrome there was surrounded by hillocks. They did not wish to touch Taihoku the next day because August 21 was the last day given by the Allies for the Japanese to ground all their planes in Japan and elsewhere. If Netaji had been alive at that time in Taihoku they might have taken the risk of flying to Taihoku. For the rest, he repeated his story of six years before in all essential details and told me it was no use anybody doubting the truth of the plane crash. To provide me with further authentic proof of the tragic event, he mentioned the names of two Japanese officers, Col. Nonogaki of the Japanese Air Force, and Captain Arai of the Japanese Army, as the only two Japanese survivors of the air crash who could be contacted in Tokyo itself. I met Col. Nonogaki for the first time in Tokyo, on the evening of June 5, 1951. He gave me a graphic description of the air crash. In broadline he confirmed Habib's version of six years ago. Through Col. Nonogaki's good offices I saw Captain Arai who gave me a brief eye-witness account of the crash and confirmed Netaji's death in the hospital at 9 p.m. on August 12, 1945.

I must here mention another very important fact in this connection. When I was in Delhi in April 1951, I met Mr. Harin Shah, special representative of the 'Bharat' of Bombay. He had been to Formosa in 1948 on tour. He told me in detail about his inquiries which convinced him that the crash did take place, that Netaji died in Taihoku and his body was cremated. He showed me the photographs he had taken of the Chief of the Japanese Army Hospital where Netaji was treated, the surgeon who actually treated Netaji, the nurses who attended on him, the chief of the medical faculty who sent blood for transfusion to Netaji and the students who gave the blood for transfusion.

In conclusion I would repeat that I have not the faintest doubt in my mind that the ashes that are enshrined in the Renkoji temple in Tokyo are Netaji's.

single ambulance plane was leaving Taihoku and I could get a seat. I took charge of Netaji's ashes and flew by that plane and reached Tokyo on the 6th September 1945. I was taken straight to one of the suburbs for the sake of secrecy and it was only two days later that the Japanese took first the ashes and then me into Tokyo city." Habib's version ends.

On September 14, we took the ashes to the Renkoji temple in Tokyo where we hold a funeral service conducted by the priest of the temple and left the ashes in his safe custody.

I and Habib were flown to Delhi under military escort in an American plane and reached Delhi on November 22, 1945.

I paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May, 1951. I was in Tokyo from May 24 to June 10. During my stay there I tried to meet as many Japanese nationals as I could, with a view to checking up the truth of the air-crash. First I went to the temple to make sure that the ashes were there as I left them six years ago. The same priest was still there.

The first Japanese I saw after meeting the priest was Mr. Fukuoka whom I had last seen at Saigon airport on the morning of August 20th 1945. I recalled to his mind our conversation that morning and asked him what exactly he knew at that moment, six years ago. He told me that he knew from certain messages that Netaji's plane had crashed in Taihoku and that Netaji had been seriously injured but that he was not aware then that Netaji had succumbed to his injuries. He heard about Netaji's death only some time after my plane took off. He was convinced of the truth of this story because it was corroborated by different Japanese Military officers stationed at that time in Saigon.

I also met Col. Tada, the officer who accompanied me from Saigon to Tokyo in August 1945, and asked him why he failed to take me to Taihoku in spite of his promise to do so. He explained that it was past 10 p.m. when our plane reached Taichu and it was not considered safe to proceed to Taihoku at that

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efforts to unbuckle the belts of his bushcoat and round his waist. I dashed up to him and tried to help him remove the belts. Then I noticed that his face was battered by iron and burnt by fire. A few minutes later he collapsed and lay on the ground. I was also exhausted and lay down by his side. The next thing I knew I was lying on a hospital bed next to Netaji. I learnt later that within fifteen minutes of the crash, military ambulance had rushed us to hospital in Taihoku city. Netaji lost consciousness almost immediately after reaching the hospital. He regained it soon after. He never complained about the writhing pain that he must have been suffering. Except for brief spells he was conscious throughout. A moment before his end came he said to me "My end is coming very soon. I have fought all my life for my country's freedom. I am dying for my country's freedom. Go and tell my countrymen to continue the fight for India's freedom. India will be free before long." The Japanese made superhuman efforts to save Netaji. But it was all in vain. Six hours after he was brought into the hospital, i.e., at 9 p.m. on 18th August, 1945, Netaji's end came peacefully.

"When I felt well enough to talk to them I told the Japanese to arrange to send Netaji's body by plane to Singapore or to Tokyo. They promised they would. They then told me that it was impossible to carry Netaji's remains out of Taihoku and cremation had to be arranged as early as possible. They asked my consent for it. I had no other alternative but to agree. The funeral service with full military honours was held in the shrine attached to the hospital and the cremation took place on the 20th. They placed Netaji's ashes in an urn and kept it in the shrine. Three weeks later I was told that a

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ex-Chairman, Indian Independence League in Japan and I contacted the Japanese Military authorities who told us that the ashes of Netaji brought by Habib from Formosa the previous day would be handed to us for safe custody and that Habib himself would be joining us sometime that evening. I received the ashes at the hands of a senior Japanese military officer at the main entrance to the Imperial Japanese Military Headquarters, and took them to the house of Sri Murthy. The same night Habib arrived in the house of Sri Ananda Mohan Sahay where I was staying. I give below Habib's version of what happened to Netaji after I saw him off at the Saigon airport on the evening of August 17, 1945.

Habib's version begins: "A couple of hours after we took off from Saigon aerodrome on 17th August, we landed at Touraine (Indo-China) and halted there for the night. Early next morning we again took off and landed at the Taihoku airport at about 2 p.m. on the 18th. We took off from there at 2.35 p.m. We had just cleared the runway and gained two or three hundred feet height when there was a sudden deafening noise. I thought it was an enemy fighter. I learnt later that one of the propellers of the port engine had broken. The plane was already wobbling and in spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane crashed on its nose and everything went black for a while. When I recovered consciousness a few seconds after, I realised that all the luggage had crashed on top of me and a fire had started in front of me. So, exit by the rear was blocked by the packages and exit by the front was possible only through the fire. Netaji was injured in the head but had struggled to his feet and was about to move in my direction to get away from the fire. As there was no passage I said to him "Agese nikliye, Netaji". With both his hands he fought his way through the fire and stood outside about ten or fifteen feet away. When the plane crashed, he got a splash of petrol all over his cotton khaki and it caught fire when he struggled through the nose of the plane. So he stood there with his clothes burning and making desperate efforts ...

SS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IN PARLIAMENT

REPORT ON THE DEATH OF NETAJI

New Delhi, March 5, 1952.

Replying to a question in Parliament today about the report on the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose submitted by Shri S.A. Ayer, the Prime Minister said:

On the 15th of September 1951, Mr. S.A. Ayer called on the Prime Minister and told him that he had paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May. The purpose of his visit had been to re-verify the story of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on August the 18th, 1945. He also showed the Prime Minister some papers, some photographs and some documents signed by the Japanese people. At the Prime Minister's request, Mr. Ayer sent him a detailed report of his enquiries on the 26th of September. A resume of the report is placed on the Table of the House.

RESUME . . .

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R E S U M E

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SHRI S.A. AYER'S REPORT ON AIRCRASH OF NETAJI
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE AT TAIHOKU (FORMOSA) ON
AUGUST 18, 1945.

At 5-15 P.M. on the 17th August, 1945, I and a number of my colleagues saw Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Col. Habib-ur-Rahman off by a bomber leaving Saigon airport for an unknown destination. The Japanese authorities offered me a seat in a plane leaving Saigon for Japan on 20th August and hinted that I could join Netaji very soon. I reached Saigon airport on the morning of the 20th August, 1945, and there accidentally met Mr. Fukuoka, Chief of the Domei News Agency for the East Asia Regions, who told me abruptly that he was sorry for Netaji. I merely presumed that Netaji had been held up in Formosa owing to bad weather. A little later just as I was going to board the plane, Rear Admiral Chuda of the Japanese Navy told me that Netaji was dead. I had no chance to ask him for details because in the next few moments I was aboard the plane.

When we reached Canton airport at 5 P.M. and halted for refuelling, Col. Tada, who was escorting me, took me aside and told me for the first time that Netaji's plane crashed near Taihoku (Formosa) on August 18 and that Netaji was seriously injured and succumbed to his injuries the same night, and that Col. Habib-ur-Rahman, who was not so seriously injured, was alive and lying in a hospital in Taihoku. I asked him to take me to Taihoku so that I could see Netaji's body with my own eyes, and also be of some service to Habib. I told him that without positive proof nobody in India would believe the story. Though Col. Tada promised to help me, I was not taken to Taihoku.

We reached Tokyo on the 22nd August, 1945 and the Japanese, in consultation with me, drafted a brief communique announcing the death of Netaji. On September 7th, Sri Rama Murthy,

ex-Chairman ...

QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR THE MEETING OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA TO BE HELD ON THE 5TH
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* Shri Kamath:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity with the Government of Bombay, recently returned from Tokyo and submitted to Government a report on the death or present whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) if not, whether the House can have a resume of the contents thereof ?

ANSWER (ORAL)

Hon'ble Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:

(a), (b) and (c).

On the 15th of September 1951, Mr. S.A. Ayer called on the Prime Minister and told him that he had paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May. The purpose of his visit had been to re-verify the story of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on August the 18th, 1945. He also showed the Prime Minister some papers, some photographs and some documents signed by the Japanese people. At the Prime Minister's request, Mr. Ayer sent him a detailed report of his enquiries on the 26th of September. A resume of the report is placed on the Table of the House.

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DEPARTMENT/OFFICE.

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Draft Letter Memorandum Telogram File No.
IMMEDIATE Serial No.
No. D.4641-CJK/52 Dated Oct. '52.

Subject: Starred Question No.369 about the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, tabled by Shri B.K.Das --- to be answered on 5 November '52 in the House of the People.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the above mentioned Starred Question and to say that the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the non-official resolution passed by the West Bengal State Assembly urging an enquiry on the reported death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose when he placed on the table of the House a review of Shri J.A.Aiyer's report on the circumstances of the reported death.

P.T.O.

Under Secretary (FEA)

RE SOLUTION OF THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Resolved that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government to take all necessary steps for ascertaining the real facts about the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - carried unanimously.

(24)

RE SOLUTION OF THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY.

Resolved that the West Bengal State Government should move the Central Government to take all necessary steps for ascertaining the real facts about the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - carried unanimously.

25

No.2-Q/52

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
NEW DELHI-1, the 29th Sept '52List of questions for the House of the People
Disallowed and Withdrawn.

Diary No.	Date on which proposed to be asked.	Brief subject
1	2	3

Starred Questions.

Read from Parliament

X

X

X

Assitant at

5.5 p.m. today.

369

5-11-52

Enquiry about death
of Subhas Chandra
Bose.

30.10.52

X

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X

N.G.O. Par.

A draft reply to the above
question has already been
put up to PPS to P.H. by
DS (FEA). We may now withdraw
our file.

(R)

30.10.52

Seen by DS (FEA)